AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A call processing method utilizing a telephone network, comprising the steps of:

operating a telephone switch to detect receipt of an incoming telephone call on a subscriber telephone line;

in response to detecting an incoming telephone call on the subscriber telephone line, operating the telephone switch to transmit a message to a service control point indicating receipt of a call on the subscriber telephone line;

operating the service control point to transmit a message to a first computer in response to the message transmitted by said telephone switch; and

operating the first computer to select a first party to service the incoming call, wherein the first computer is a network server serving the telephone network without being dedicated to solely serving any party placing or receiving a telephone call over the telephone network.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

operating the first computer to determine the availability of the first party to service the incoming call by contacting a second computer, the second computer being associated with the first party.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the second computer is coupled to a first telephone device by a communications link which supports computer and telephone interaction, the step of operating the first computer to determine the availability of the first party including:

obtaining telephone device status information from the second computer.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising:

operating the first computer to send call related information to the second computer.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising:

operating the first computer to send a first telephone number corresponding to the first telephone device to the service control point; and

operating the service control point to instruct the telephone switch to complete the incoming call using the first telephone number as the destination telephone number.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the first telephone number is different from a telephone number used to route the incoming call to said subscriber telephone line.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

operating the first computer to determine from a second computer if a telephone line associated with the first party is busy.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein determining from the second computer if the telephone line is busy includes using a telephone application programming interface to obtain telephone line status information.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, further comprising:

in response to detecting that said telephone line is busy:

controlling the second computer to display a plurality of call disposition options; and

operating the first computer to receive call disposition selection information from the second computer [[system]].

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the received call disposition information includes a telephone number to which the incoming call should be completed, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the received telephone number to the service control point.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising:

operating the service control point to transmit the received telephone number to the telephone switch; and

operating the telephone switch to complete the call to the telephone line corresponding to the received telephone number.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:

transmitting call related data to a third computer, the third computer being associated with a party to whom the received telephone number corresponds.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the received call disposition information includes a telephone number, the method further comprising:

operating the first computer to use the received telephone number to identify a third computer; and

transmitting to the third computer call related data.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising:

transmitting the received telephone number to the service control point;

operating the service control point to transmit the received telephone number to the telephone switch; and

operating the telephone switch to complete the call to the telephone line corresponding to the received telephone number.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A communications system comprising:

a telephone switch including trigger circuitry for detecting calls to a first telephone line on which a trigger is set, a first telephone number being associated with the first telephone line;

a first subscriber telephone device coupled to the telephone switch by the first telephone line;

a first computer coupled to the first subscriber telephone device by a communications link which supports the transmission of TAPI signals between the first computer and the first subscriber telephone device; and

a second computer [[system]] coupled to the telephone switch and to the first computer, the second computer including a routine for determining, as a function of telephone line status information obtained from the first computer, a telephone number to be used to complete the routing of calls to the first telephone line which are detected by said trigger circuitry.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a service control point for coupling the telephone switch to the second computer [[system]].

Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 15, where said trigger circuitry is terminating attempt trigger circuitry.

Claim 18 (original): The system of claim 17, further comprising:

a first Internet Protocol based computer network for coupling the first computer to the second computer.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a second Internet Protocol based computer network for coupling the second computer to the service control point; and

wherein the second computer system includes a routine for controlling the transmission of call related data to the first computer [[system]] over said first Internet Protocol based computer network.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 19, further comprising;

a signaling system seven communications link for coupling the service control point to said telephone switch.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A communications method <u>utilizing a telephone network</u>, comprising:

triggering, in response to an incoming call, a terminating attempt trigger set on a first telephone service subscriber line corresponding to a service subscriber telephone number;

contacting a service control point for call processing instructions in response to triggering of the terminating attempt trigger;

operating the service control point to transmit a message including the service subscriber telephone number to a first computer;

operating the first computer to select a party to service said incoming call, wherein the first computer is a network server serving the telephone network without being dedicated to solely serving any party placing or receiving a telephone call over the telephone network;

operating the first computer to contact a second computer to determine the status of a telephone line coupled to the second computer [[system]]; and

performing a call routing operation as a function of the determined status of the telephone line coupled to the second computer [[system]].

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, wherein performing a call routing operation includes:

operating the first computer to supply a telephone number to a service control point; and

routing an incoming call to a telephone line identified by said telephone number.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein routing an incoming call includes:

operating the service control point to send a message to a telephone switch to route the incoming call using said telephone number.

Claims 24-25 (canceled):

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the step of operating the first computer to supply a telephone number to a service control point includes:

selecting as said telephone number to be supplied to the service control point, a telephone number corresponding to the party selected to service said incoming call.